

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 00160 191820Z
ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SCA-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06
CCO-00 PER-01 MCT-01 AID-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00
H-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /079 W
-----191825Z 100278 /43

O 191645Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1620
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 0160

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, AEMR, DM
SUBJECT: COTONOU SITREP: EMBASSY EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF CRO DAVIS

REF: COTONOU 140

1. CHARGE LASOR CALLED LOME BY SSM AT ABOUT 1230
TO SAY HE WAS DEPARTING EMBASSY FOR TOUR OF BATTLE
SCENE ARRANGED BY MFA FOR COTONOU DIPLOMATIC COLONY.
HE SAID HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO BRING QUESTION
DETENTION CRO DAVIS UP WITH MFA PROTOCOL OFFICIAL
WHO HAD INFORMED HIM OF TOUR. LASOR ASKED LOME
TO STANDBY ON RADIO UNTIL HE RETURNED.

2. LASOR CONTACTED US AT 1545Z. HE SAID TOUR HAD
INCLUDED VISIT TO PRESIDENCY WHERE PRE / KEREKOU
HAD POINTED OUT VARIOUS CAPTURED WEAPONS.

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3. LASOR THEN VISITED SURETE TO PURSUE RELEASE
DAVIS, HOWEVER, SURETE WAS CLOSED.

4. NEXT LASOR WENT TO HOME OF MFA DIRECTOR OF
PROTOCOL WHERE HE HAD 25-MINUTE TALK. THIS
OFFICIAL INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL AND
PROMISED TO DO EVERYTHING TO OBTAIN RELEASE DAVIS

TOMORROW.

5. HOWEVER, DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL SAID PROBLEM IN OBTAINING DAVIS' RELEASE IS THAT MILITARY AUTHORITIES SUSPICIOUS OF HIM 1) BECAUSE HE HAD US DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT AND 2) HE REFUSED TO SPEAK FRENCH. CHARGE POINTED OUT DAVIS CANNOT SPEAK FRENCH. DIRECTOR PROTOCOL SAID HE UNDERSTOOD BUT MILITARY APPARENTLY DID NOT.

6. LASOR SAID HE BELIEVES GPRB AUTHORITIES CONVINCED US HAS ULTERIOR MOTIVES IN SEEKING TO OBTAIN RELEASE DAVIS AND HIS JUDGMENT WAS THAT MILITARY AUTHORITIES MIGHT WELL REFUSE TO RELEASE HIM. IN THIS CASE, AS STOPGAP MEASURE, CHARGE WILL SEEK TO GET DAVIS MOVED TO AIRCONDITIONED HOTEL ROOM, UNDER GUARD, INSTEAD OF CONTINUED DETENTION AT CAMP.

7. LASOR ASKED EMBASSY LOME TO SEND THIS INFO SINCE HE WAS DEPARTING IMMINENTLY TO CALL ON DIRECTOR SURETE RE DAVIS. I ASKED WHETHER HEAVY ARTILLERY FROM WASHINGTON WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HIM IN DEALING WITH GPRB RE RELEASE. HE SAID, AT THIS JUNCTURE, IT SEEMED BEST TO HIM TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE FIRST AT LOCAL LEVEL.

8. LASOR SAID HE HAD THOUGHT OF SEEKING ASSISTANCE AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL
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AS EUROPEAN AND EGYPTIAN REPS, BUT GHANAIAN CHARGE HAS HAD HIS PAPERS LIFTED AND NIGERIANS NOT IN EVIDENCE. NO NIGERIAN WAS ON BATTLE-SCENE TOUR. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN LAGOS.

9. LASOR SAID TCU WOULD BE CLOSING DOWN AT 1700Z SO THAT COMMUNICATOR COULD GET SOME REST. LOME WILL MONITOR SSB AND RELAY ANY REPORT LASOR ABLE TO MAKE AFTER VISIT TO SURETE. ACCRA BACKING US UP.

10. FOR RCO ACCRA: LASOR SAID COTONOU WILL NEED TDY CRO ASAP, WHEN POSSIBLE.

11. FYI: ACCRA-BASED CANADIAN DIPLOMAT STRAUSS SOUGHT TO CROSS BORDER THIS AFTERNOON AT 1330 TO PROCEED TO COTONOU TO REPRESENT INTERESTS CANADIANS THERE; HOWEVER, HE WAS TURNED BACK ON TOGOLESE SIDE OF BORDER BY GOT

IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES. HE WAS TOLD THAT
NO ONE OF ANY NATIONALITY WAS BEING PERMITTED
ENTRY INTO BENIN. STRAUSS SUBSEQUENTLY
APPEALED TO GOT MIN. OF INTERIOR EKLO BUT
WAS TOLD THERE WOULD BE NO EXCEPTION TO THIS
POLICY. STRAUSS CONCLUDES THAT GOT HAS MADE
INFORMAL AGREEMENT WITH GPRB RE BORDER; TOGOLESE
MOTIVE PRESUMABLY TO AVOID ANY IMPUTATION THAT
GOT PERMITTING MERCENARIES TO CROSS BORDER. END FYI.

12. ACCRA: PLEASE PASS CONTENTS PARA 11 TO
CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER ACCRA.
PALMER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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